

2d Slaying Shakes NW Hippie Circle

James "Crazy Jim" Mahon, a decorated Vietnam veteran who drifted into the so-called "Vipers" motorcycle club here, shot and killed a fellow Viper early yesterday, apparently in self-defense, Washington police reported.

Mahon, 22, told police he fired his shotgun into the chest of Gilbert Willis, 21, at about 2 a.m. as Willis chased him with a machete in their trash-strewn "crash pad" apartment at 1801 Newton St. NW.

The incident occurred after several Vipers returned to the red brick apartment building

from a drinking spree, police said.

The Vipers figured in the news earlier this week when police arrested 14-year-old Debra (Muffin) Mattingly and two young men in the slaying of her father, Richard S. Mattingly Sr. in Arlington.

Mahon and youth counselors told reporters at that time that the Mattingly girl was "obsessed" with motorcycles, knew the Vipers—a loosely organized group of eight to 12 members—and had lived briefly at the Newton Street address.

Mahon, a two-tour Vietnam war veteran who lost his left thumb and suffered perforations of one lung in combat, was charged yesterday with second-degree murder in Willis' death.

He was released on personal bond in the custody of Army Lt. Col. Ross Goddard, who said he was a personal friend of Mahon and had served in the same unit with him in Vietnam, the 173d Airborne Brigade.

The officer lives at 1301 S. Arlington Ridge Rd., Arlington.

See SLAY, A5, Col. 1